

We Face A New Era

According to Dwight L. Bolinger of the University of Southern California "Education is an overloaded craft about to founder on a tide of babies."

He is, of course, right in assuming that the war and post-war baby boom will severely tax higher education. In a recent magazine article, Bolinger continues: "So far the sad results of diluted education—oversized classes, half-day sessions, part-time teachers—have been mainly visible in the elementary schools, whose population has increased a million a year since 1953 until it reached just under 28 million last fall."

Now the high schools are beginning to feel the tide, but the colleges still have not felt the full torrent of that epochal baby crop of the 1940's. So we have something to look forward to—and to plan for, if we plan quickly.

We must realize, too, that the colleges and universities will get three blows instead of the one which elementary and high schools are getting. In addition to the population boom, two other factors will bring problems to the colleges and universities. One is the fact that our world of science has widened tremendously in recent years. In chemistry, physics, engineering, the social sciences and economics there are new skills demanded, new professions to train for, new devices we must learn to use, even new vocabularies. Professors must know more in order to teach more, and laboratories and libraries will need new resources.

The other impact which the colleges will feel is that of increased popularity. We won't just get our share of the population growth, as the grades and high schools have, but we'll get more. A larger proportion of our population is going to go to college in the future than was true of the past.

According to U. S. News & World Report, the percentage increase, from 1948 to 1957 in pupils enrolled, has been 62% in the nation's kindergartens, 32% in grade school, 35% increase in high school, and 27% increase in colleges.

We must realize that a larger percent of that 62% and 32% and 35% will go on to college than ever before. The 27% increase up to now for the colleges is the figure which will grow sharply—perhaps doubling and tripling—in the years ahead.

Another fact learned from U. S. News & World Report is that our college students are going to stay with us longer, spending more years on campus. In that 1948-56 period the number of bachelors' degrees granted has risen 20%, masters' degrees up 35% while Ph.D. degrees have shot up 97% in number, in that nine-year span!



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What has this to do with agriculture? Only this: Much of the growth in new devices and techniques, new learning in science and economics and engineering, is in the general field of agriculture. We are living in an age of chemical agriculture in which we kill bugs, destroy weeds, defoliate cotton, fatten cattle, protect farm buildings and do a dozen other chores with chemicals.

We are living in an age of engineering agriculture. Motors pump the water, milk the cows, plow the fields and reap them, as well as speed farm products to market. Science is telling us new things about the soil, about plants, and about the water which feeds life—how we can get more water, or store it better or use it more efficiently.

A generation ago many Americans belittled a college education for a farmer. Today a man with four years of college training is just barely inside the door of the vast storeroom of knowledge useful and important to farming and ranching.

There will be, as we've shown above, a vast torrent of students in the future. There will be a vastly wider area of knowledge for them to learn, and so they'll stay in college longer.



April 22, 23, 24—Sprinkler Irrigation Clinic—U of A Campus.

May 3—Field Day and Dedication—Yuma Farm.

May 10—Field Day — Mesa Branch Station.

May 17—U of A Poultry Science Department First Annual All-Industry Day—U of A Poultry Farm, Tucson.

September 27—Safford Field Day—Safford Experimental Farm.

October 4—Cotton Research Farm Field Day — Cotton Research Station, Phoenix.

October 11—Field Day—Mesa Farm.

October 31—Annual Citrus Field Day—Salt River Valley Citrus Station.

November 15—Citrus Farm Field Day—Yuma Citrus Farm.

Country Life Conference

The eleventh Country Life Conference of Arizona Women will be held on the campus of the University of Arizona April 22-25. All rural women of the state are invited to participate.

For specific information about reservations, cost and details of program, contact your local County Home Agent.

These things—hard, statistical facts which affect you as a parent, as a farmer or rancher, as a home owner or owner of a farm-related business—these are the things which must guide your thinking and your decisions when you decide, as a taxpayer, to support this higher education which, after all, is the basis of our very society.

Harold E. Myers

Dean

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